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ON TAP

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TCWD's ONLINE BILL PAY

Trabuco Canyon Water District is pleased to announce that the ability to pay utility bills online is now available to District customers. To access this new online feature, please visit our website at www.tcwd.ca.gov and click on the new link for online billing and payments.

The first time you visit, you will be asked to set up an account for online payment. In order to do so, click on the link to request a new account. You will need to provide a current e-mail address and your TCWD account number, which is located on your bill, to request this new account. Once registration is completed, a confirmation e-mail will be sent to you with your new login and password and you will be able to login in within minutes.

With our new online utility billing you can view your bill and much more. You can now make payments, view bills, view consumption history, view payment history, and request a graph of your previous twenty-four month consumption. Also, if you would like to go paperless and receive your bill electronically, you can request to have an electronic bill e-mailed to you instead of having one mailed.

Online payments may be made with a credit card or an electronic check. Receipts are e-mailed to you with your confirmation number. Payments made through this site will be reflected immediately on your account. You can set up recurring payments through your credit card or electronic check.

If you have any questions about the online billing please feel free to contact customer service at (949) 858-0277 extension 1.

CONSERVATION MEANS SAVINGS

When the seasons and the weather patterns change, the plants in our yards provide us with reminders about the need to either begin or change the watering schedules. Have you ever forgotten to water the yard? Have you suddenly noticed that the grass and plants look dry and limp?

The change in weather causes a change in the evaporation rate of water; industry specialists in the field of irrigation use the term Evapotranspiration: The loss of water from the soil by evaporation and by transpiration (think of it as plant sweat) from the plants growing in the soil.

Sometimes when you do remember to water your yard, you can even forget to turn the water off because your sprinklers were not on a timer system. Even if there is a timer system, many customers confess that adjusting the timer system can be time consuming, incredibly confusing, or they are unsure how to program it.

Ironically, surveys show that overwatering yards appears to be a malady in the western states. Yet, common sense tells us that watering a yard too much encourages the lawn to grow faster. And when the lawn grows faster, it's necessary to spend more time in the yard which can increase unnecessary water waste. So, let's look at a way you can take one day a month off—and save water and money in the bargain.

Lawn grasses are either warm-season or cool season species. Warm-season grasses go dormant and turn brown in winter. In general, they are best adapted to the Southern California area and are the most drought-tolerant.

Conversely, year-round growth and green color characterize the cool-season grasses. They are considered to be higher maintenance grasses because they require more water and careful management in the summer, and they are more susceptible to disease.

Remember, for efficient water use:

- Mow your lawn at the correct height.
- Cool-season grasses at 1-1/2".
- Warm-season grasses from 3/4" to 1-1/4"
- Vertical mow or heavy rake to remove dead and dying thatch.
- Aerate to overcome compacted soil and minimize runoff.

SUGGESTED WEEKLY WATERING SCHEDULE FOR JULY	
Turf Grass	Trees, Shrubs, and Groundcover
Four Days	Two Days
Three Cycles of Three Minutes	Three Cycles of Four Minutes

If you have any questions about how to implement conservation measures in your landscape or how to effectively manage your irrigation controller, please feel free to contact TCWD.

2010 WINTER STORM FEMA UPDATE

Now that we have entered the summer season with the warmer days and clearer skies, the December 2010 winter storms seem a distant memory. Most of the extensive damage to District facilities caused by the heavy rains has been repaired and the formal documentation submittal process for the reimbursement project costs has been completed.

Since last month's update in *On Tap*, the District has received majority of the approved reimbursed funds from both FEMA and CalEMA. We will continue to keep you updated as this situation progresses.

WEST NILE VIRUS

West Nile Virus (WNV) is endemic in Orange County and is expected to be a public health concern indefinitely, according to the Orange County Health Agency. WNV first reached Orange County in 2003 when a few dead birds tested positive for the disease.

The virus is most commonly spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. It affects the central nervous system and can cause a potentially serious illness with varying symptoms.

As warm weather approaches, remember the "Five D's" to defend you and your family against West Nile virus.

- ***DRAIN*** standing water in your backyard and neighborhood. Old tires, flower pots and clogged rain gutters are mosquito breeding sites.
- ***DUSK & DAWN*** are the times of day you should try to stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active.
- ***DOORS*** and windows should have "bug-tight" screens to help keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- ***DRESS*** in long sleeves and pants when you're outside.
- ***DEET*** is an ingredient to look for in your insect repellent. Always wear repellent when outdoors.

For more information, contact the Orange County Health Care Agency at ochealthinfo.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Regular Board of Directors Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District's office located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Board Meeting was held on June 15, 2011, and the following items are highlights from the Meeting:

- Approval of the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan
- Approval of the 2011 District Personnel Policy
- Status Update and Possible Action Relating to Storm Damage
- Status Update Relating to Baker Regional Water Treatment Plant
- Adoption of Resolution No. 2011-1150 Approving Fiscal Year 2011/2012 General Fund Budget

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